



MINTLAW ACADEMY

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Introduction

Welcome to the first newsletter of this session, I do hope you enjoy reading it and finding out what has been happening in school. I continue to be really impressed with the energy, enthusiasm and friendliness of staff, pupils and parents at Mintlaw Academy and I am convinced that by learning and working together we can provide the very best opportunity to succeed for our young people.

It has been an exciting start to the new session with new staff, refurbished science laboratories, new flooring and smart senior school pupils.

The school welcomes;

Victoria Barclay - Art & Design

Sarah Devlin - RMPS

Margaret Gordon - Home Economics

Katherine Grant - Technical

Karen McSeveney - French/German

Vera Pauly - English

Kelly Stephen - Biology

After a very busy summer of refurbishment we are delighted to have a very fresh looking, updated and upgraded science facility for pupils and teachers to learn and teach in. These new facilities were opened, formally, by Andy Griffiths, Head of Education in Aberdeenshire and a number of Councillors from the Buchan Ward on Wednesday 12 September.

We have also managed to re-floor the ground floor area of the school over the summer and this is now looking neat and fresh. In addition to this I am delighted to announce that all windows and window frames throughout the school will be replaced and renewed in a rolling programme this session.

A delegation of senior pupils approached me at the start of this term to discuss school uniform and I am pleased that we have agreed that a white blouse / shirt and school tie is now expected to be worn by all S6 pupils and S5 prefects. I can report they are looking very smart indeed.

It is our intention to revise the current dress code (see page 13) this session. To this end we have established a "Dress Code Leadership Group" including staff and pupils. This group suggested that a "Design Your Uniform" competition be launched this term inviting pupils to have a say in the look of their uniform. This will culminate in a voting process involving all pupils next term with a view to launching the new style uniform after Christmas.

It is important to me to seek and understand the view of the parents and wider local community and I hope to re-establish a new school website in the very near future. The new website should be "live" very early next term.

In addition to this I have been holding weekly Headteacher Surgeries in my office at the school on Tuesdays. These are informal opportunities for parents to "drop in" and discuss any matters relating to the school or just to find out what is happening in school. No appointment is necessary. The surgery runs from 4-6pm.

It has been a busy term and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the whole staff for their hard work, dedication and commitment and wish all pupils, parents and staff a restful and enjoyable October break.

Alan Horberry
Headteacher

1. Longside Primary Bench

Two Mintlaw Academy pupils, Stuart Forsyth and Ashley Wade, pictured, recently visited Longside Primary School to deliver a small picnic bench for the Nursery class to use in their outdoor play area.



The bench was manufactured by the boys during their time in the What's Right For Me Group, run by Paula Rawson, Community Learning and Development Officer. The boys are carrying out a series of workshops which gives them life skills in a variety of different settings.

A. Hynd (Technical)

The group have manufactured picnic benches both in adult and junior sizes with the help of Technology teacher Ali Hynd. The aim of the group is to sell the picnic benches to staff in the school to help raise funds for their trip at the end of the year.

2. S4 Work Experience

Mr Hynd (Technical)

Six girls from Mintlaw Academy have recently taken part in a two-week work experience programme sponsored by Shell.

The secondary school pupils have been taking part in Banff & Buchan College's "Skills for Work - Energy", a two-year programme designed to show young women the range of career opportunities in the energy industry.

The girls' work experience included a visit to an offshore supply vessel, laboratories, CHC Helicopters in Dyce and St Fergus Gas Plant where they met scores of oil and gas specialists.



The girls spoke to members of Shell's Women's Network about diversity and inclusiveness, as well as the importance of supporting colleagues in the workplace and building a network of contacts.

The young students also attended a meeting at Oil & Gas UK, where they delivered a presentation on what they learned during the course.

Glen Cayley, Technical Vice-President for Shell Upstream Europe, said:

"I am delighted this course is producing such successful students. It is particularly pleasing to see young females taking their first steps to a career in the oil and gas industry. Encouraging and supporting the next generation of engineers is a key priority for Shell"

Grace Brown, who participated in the work experience programme, said:

"This experience with Shell has influenced my decision to pursue a career in the energy industry. Meeting employees from the company has expanded my knowledge of the different careers and opportunities on offer".

Susan Lumsden, who also took part, added: "Before I came to Shell my thoughts about my future career changed every week. But after hearing about the different opportunities available I would like to pursue a career in mechanical engineering".

S4 Work Experience

A. Campbell, CSN

Work Experience provides students with first-hand experience of the world of work. Across Aberdeenshire, the work experience programme is highly valued by the students, school staff and the local companies that welcome our young people into their organisational environments.

Almost 80% of our S4 students took part in the work experience programme during the last week of September. Placements ranged from administration to engineering, classroom assistant to hairdressing, giving students access to a variety of skills and experiences and all helping to aid the decision about future career choices.

3. S1/S2 Science Festival Trip

Craig Lytell (S5)



In early September S1 and S2 pupils attended the Science Festival in Banff & Buchan College. The pupils attended included S2 pupil Shannon Crighton and S1 pupils Jemma Yule, Danielle Morgan, Katy Simpson and Lena Forsyth, thought this an enjoyable event. They said they did many experiments such as the Naked Scientist which was the most popular activity, Real Life X-Men and Real Life science drawing. I spoke to Mrs Simpson who said she thought the whole event

was very exciting for the pupils and there were a lot of hand on activities such as building circuits, outdoor craft activities. She also said the talks and presentations were very interesting as well. All science staff and other staff from around the school went on the trip.

4. German Trip

If you'd happened to wander past the car park outside Mintlaw Academy on Tuesday 26th June, at roughly 5.30am, you may have been shocked to see so many teenagers dressed, washed and on the go at such an early hour - some even looking quite alert - accompanied by coach, their luggage and envious parents and siblings. This was due to the departure of a large group of 3rd year pupils of Mintlaw Academy (now 4th years) and their chaperones Mr Richardson, Mrs McHugh, Mr Stewart and Mrs Sutherland.

The first leg of their journey was the long drive from Mintlaw to Hull, where they boarded the ferry which would take them to Zeebrugge overnight. They enjoyed a wonderful meal at the ferry's "all-you-can-eat buffet" and then, after exploring the boat and visiting the shops on board, they retired to their cabins to catch up on sleep for their next day of travelling. It was another bright and early start for the group, who were awoken by the sounds of the overhead speaker wishing them all "Good Morning" in more languages than it is possible to count at that time of day. After breakfast, they settled themselves back onto the coach for the final part of their voyage to the town in which they would spend their week, Igel (which also happens to be the German word for "hedgehog"), near Trier in the beautiful Moselle Valley. They were lucky enough to stay in the lovely Igeler Säule hotel where they slept in rooms of two and spent their evenings making full use of the hotel swimming pool and walking in the town. The next day was spent in the city of Saarburg on the river Moselle, where they completed assignments, admired the surrounding scenery by chairlift and whizzed around on toboggan rides in the morning and, in the afternoon, they crossed the nearby border to get a snapshot of France. Friday was the highlight of many people's trip, as they visited the legendary Phantasialand and went on as many rides as possible without bringing their breakfast back up! On the following day, they enjoyed even more swimming at an outdoor swimming pool, or "ein Freibad" nearby. They used the afternoon to visit Bernkastel, a traditional German town, well-known for its wine tasting. On the fourth day, Sunday, they took a boat trip down the river Moselle and their final day was spent in Trier, doing assignments and shopping and later in Luxembourg, where those learning

French got a chance to practise their language skills. On Tuesday, with their suitcases packed full of Mezzo Mix and Milka chocolate, they started their return journey, taking the coach back to Zeebrugge and taking the overnight ferry back to Hull. After such a wonderful week of new experiences and a taste of German and French culture, these students will undoubtedly have another fantastic year of learning languages.

5. Return to Forbidden Planet

From the 19th-21st of October, pupils from second to fourth year brilliantly transformed the drama studio into a spaceship in their performance of *Return to the Forbidden Planet* - a jukebox musical based on Shakespeare's *The Tempest* and the film from the 1950s called *Forbidden Planet*. Not only was the acting and singing excellent, the live music performed by 'The Sharp Band' and Mr Holroyd was also first class. When speaking to someone involved in the production they told us, "We are all very pleased with how it turned out but it wasn't without its challenges. Just before the summer we had an almost complete change of cast but everyone worked really hard to make it work. I think it is safe to say by judging on the comments from the audience that it was a very enjoyable evening." Well done to all involved!

All is not quiet in drama now though as there is still a lot coming up; the 5th and 6th years are working towards their investigative drama pieces, the 4th years will be performing their pantomimes and a few extracurricular groups are starting up including a Shakespeare group.

6. KCA Deutag Work Experience

Olivia McHugh (S6)

During the last week of the summer term I travelled to Bad-Bentheim in Germany to do work experience for a week in connection with KCA Deutag in Altens. In order to take part in the work experience I had to apply and have an interview in both English and German and 3 pupils from different schools were chosen. Bad-Bentheim is around 10km away from the Netherlands border so I was flown to Amsterdam and then took a taxi to my host family's house. I stayed with a German family with 2 children, the father of which works for KCA Deutag. Every day I went to work and learned about all aspects of the Oil Industry and how drilling for oil works. The sister company of KCA Deutag - Bentec - has a factory opposite the offices and so I visited that and saw part of the process that goes into making oil rigs. I also got the opportunity to visit the Land-Rig 'T700' in the Netherlands which was very interesting. Some of KCA's apprentices took the three of us around Bad-Bentheim and we visited the castle and other sights around town. At the weekend we went to Berlin and went to the Reichstag, Alexanderplatz, Brandenburg Gate and the Fernsehturm. When we returned to Bad-Bentheim I spent the day in a German school which I found very different from schools in Scotland and to be honest I prefer the system here. I had a great time in Germany and I think the work experience was a brilliant opportunity to improve my German and learn about a different and I hope to return soon.

7. Writefest

Iona Shield (S6)

On Thursday the 13th of September Mrs Donald took the Advanced Higher English class to Writefest at the University of Aberdeen. The programme which runs every year is

designed to give English students the chance to develop their writing skills and help them with their folio. The day began with a welcome, and then Alan Bissett, a young author, took to the stage to perform an extract from his book 'Boy Racers'. Next was the turn of playwright John Binnie who spoke to us about one of his plays, which has been performed all over the world, and acted out one of the scenes to an amused audience.

Our group's first workshop was with Alan Bissett where we examined attention grabbing openings of novels and techniques used by authors to keep the readers' interest throughout a story. In the next workshop we were asked to write a personal monologue on a topic chosen, such as somewhere you feel safe, a time of great sadness or a time you felt really angry. We were then given a topic from the news and asked to write from the perspective of someone involved. We each had to read one of our pieces aloud to the group and were given advice on how to build on it or ways in which it could be extended to make a short play. After lunch Claire Louise Duffy described her play written from the perspective of someone with locked in syndrome and read us an extract, which described the person's thoughts. Next Kenneth Stephen read from 'The Diving Bell and the Butterfly' an extraordinary book which was written entirely by a man with locked in syndrome blinking his left eye, showing us that if he could persevere and put in all that hard work then so can we.

Our last workshop was with poet and the previous head examiner for the SQA Creative Writing Folio Richard Bennett. He gave us a list of helpful do's and don'ts for submitting poetry to the SQA. Finally the last two speakers read extracts from their own works, Richard Bennett a selection of his poetry and Helen Lynch from her novel.

Throughout the day we had the opportunity to write pieces which can be used as a starting point for writing our own folios or just as ideas for the future if any of us want to pursue writing. Overall the day was very inspirational and it was great to have the chance to meet real, published authors, poets and playwrights.

8. Pupil Achievements

Zak Loney (S5)

Zak was selected for the Scottish Cycling Team after impressing coaches with his talents. Zak has already competed in more than 50 races this year, taking 11 first places, 6 second places and 6 thirds. He competes in time trials over 10 and 25 mile circuits as well as track cycling. He is currently nationally ranked 25th in the UK - the highest ranked Scottish rider in nation ranking. Zak has raced all over the UK including Newcastle under Lyme, Lincoln, Liverpool, Middlesbrough and Scunthorpe, but headed to Newport in South Wales, recently, as part of the Scottish team in the Inter Regional Track Championships. Zak is a member of Ythan Cycling Club and hopes to emulate his hero, Mark Cavendish one day.

Morgan McDonald (S2)

I started Judo at Mintlaw Judo Club which used to take place in the Academy. When it was the school holidays I went to Aberdeen Judo Club. I visited Turriff Judo club one night and met Stuart McWatt who invited me along to Garioch Judo Club in Inverurie where he is head coach. After that I started travelling one night a week to Inverurie. After a while, one night became two then three and now I travel four nights a week to

train and I go two full days a month training in Edinburgh and various other clubs in Scotland as part of the Judo Scotland Talent Development Programme. I went to one or



two tournaments before I joined Garioch club but after training for a few months at Inverurie I discovered the significance of taking part in competitions, and in September last year, in my 2nd tournament for Garioch I won a silver medal at Dufftown Open. In December 2011, I was presented with Garioch Judo Club Trophy for the most improved Club member in 2011. After that I took part in the Grand Prix events which consisted of 6 tournaments throughout Scotland. I won a silver medal at the Granite City Grand Prix and bronze medals at the Ultimate Grand Prix in Edinburgh, BUPA Charity Grand Prix in Motherwell and also Highland Budokan Grand Prix at Inverness in May.

After Inverness I finished 2nd in the Grand Prix circuit points table. On Saturday 15th September 2012 as part of the Garioch team we competed at the Age Band Scottish Championships in Meadowbank Sports Centre, Edinburgh where I won my first gold medal and became Age Band B under 50kg Scottish Champion (5 members of the Garioch Club became Scottish Champions). After winning the Scottish, I now want to win the Grand Prix Circuit this coming year and to compete in the British Championship in January being held in Sheffield and be the first pupil to represent the Academy in the British School Championships in 2013. Only this week my coach informed me that I have to do a 5th night training but the bonus is that the Judo is going to be starting up again in Mintlaw Academy which will mean one night I won't have to travel. I am indebted to my head coach Stuart McWatt for all I have so far achieved in my two years at Garioch

9. Road Relay

L Coleman (PE)

Several pupils competed at Ellon on a road relay last month and came 7th overall. All pupils worked really hard, had an excellent attitude and were a credit both to themselves and our school.

10. RYLA Rotary Youth Leadership Award

Iona Shield (S6)

Two S5 students were selected, by application and interview, to attend the RYLA camp at the Abernethy Trust Centre at Nethy Bridge. The camps' aims are to develop young leaders and is designed to challenge them both physically and mentally.

Iona Shield attended the Girls' Camp while the following week, Grant Massie participated in the Boys' Camp. Throughout their respective weeks they were involved in a range of activities including hill-walking, raft building, mountain biking, swimming, rock climbing, kayaking, canoeing and gorge walking! Each day they had a lecture by a guest speaker aimed at teaching them the importance of being a leader, the qualities needed and to find and develop their own style of leadership.

Iona and Grant gave a presentation to the Central Buchan Rotary at a dinner at the end of September. " I would say that from this experience I have gained a lot...you get the chance to do things you have never done before and push yourself to try new things",

said Iona. Both students would like to thank Central Buchan Rotary Club for giving them such an amazing opportunity.

11. Higher Education Convention

Andrew Kilpatrick (Guidance)

A Group of S5/6 pupils visited the Higher Education Convention at Aberdeen University this month to explore their options for after school. They met with representatives of the main Universities in Britain as well as some of the local colleges. This was an opportunity to find out more about Higher education as well as University life. They attended a talk from a representative of UCAS which was informative and valuable. The pupils were all in agreement that this was a valuable learning opportunity and had informed them as they prepare to take the big step of preparing for life after school.

12. European Day of Languages

E. Richardson (Languages)

On Wednesday, 3 October, classes in the Modern Languages Department were suspended for the day. Pupils had the opportunity to take part in four activities in Spanish, German and French. Each group spent 20 minutes in each of the activities. There were quizzes, songs and art activities. Pupils worked in groups and pairs and older pupils helped the younger ones - and perhaps vice-versa!

Feedback from pupils has been very positive. Thank you to Mrs. McSeveney for organising the day.

13. Visit to Abbey Court

M. Gordon (Care)

On Friday, 5 October the 5th Year Care Intermediate 1 group visited Abbey Court Sheltered Housing Complex as it was "Older Peoples Week".

As much of the course is about the care of the elderly a link with Abbey Court will greatly enhance learning.

During the week the pupils made a selection of sweets that they gift wrapped and gave to the residents.

Abbey Court was celebrating its 2nd birthday and the pupils, in pairs, joined the residents for coffee and cake. They talked with the residents and got a flavour of what working in a caring environment would be like.

The pupils displayed a caring attitude and were a credit to the school.

During the rest of the session more visits and learning and teaching sessions are planned.

14. Schools Football

J. Peterson (Staff)

Congratulation to the Mintlaw Academy under 14 girls who have qualified for the finals of the SSFA 7-a-side competition in Glasgow. They will represent the North of Scotland against 5 other schools from other regions.

Results at Dingwall

Mintlaw Academy 4, Banff Academy 1

(Caitlin Matthews 2, Chelsea Urquhart 1, Lauren Bell 1)

Mintlaw Academy 3, Meldrum Academy 0

(Caitlin Matthews 2, Emma Fraser 1)

Mintlaw Academy 4, Golspie High School 0
(Caitlin Matthews 2, Kiara Brownlie 1, Emma Fraser 1)

15. Charities Committee

R. Sneddon (Charities Committee)

On Friday 21 September 2012 the Charities Committee arranged at short notice a lunchtime fair on behalf of the STV Appeal. The fair was the first of its kind at Mintlaw and was a success, with more to follow at the end of term. The fair consisted of Radio Requests, Guess the Teachers Shoes, Lucky Lolly Dip, test your skill and knock down cans, Mystic Meg, guess the gooey contents and a raffle for a large purple and gold dragon! Overall the lunchtime fair managed to raise £112.93 for the STV Appeal.

16. Higher Geography Fieldtrip

Natasha Walker (S5)

On 14 September, the Higher Geography pupils set out to Sands of Forvie Nature Reserve to complete a wide range of activities that enabled the students to have a better understanding of their coursework. Various activities were carried out such as field sketching, measuring the angle and distance of the sand dunes, investigating different types of soils found in the area and, not to mention, the 4 mile walk! The aim of this experience outside the classroom was very beneficial to the pupils as it let them see the recent topics just studied right before their eyes. The idea of this was that the coursework on sand dune vegetation succession and soils would stick in their memories and hopefully gain full marks in the exam questions come May!



17. Duke of Edinburgh

A. Kilpatrick (Guidance)

Following on from the success of last year's expeditions a group of S3 pupils has just completed their practice route in the local area. Seventeen S4 pupils braved the weather to survive by themselves in the countryside. They carried everything they needed to be safe, warm and well fed on their backs. The pupils enjoyed the experience and will be working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award throughout the year.

18. Peer Listeners

H. Bryce (Depute)

Some S5 and S6 students have volunteered to be Peer Listeners and are making themselves available every lunchtime for pupils who need someone to listen to them. Sometimes it is easier to speak to someone your own age rather than a teacher or parent. These seniors will receive training from Anne Wilson, Educational Psychologist, and will listen to problems - whether they related to homework, relationships or bullying and give support. They will be available every lunchtime 1.00 - 1.30 in E10, the Social Subjects base.

19. Eco Leadership Group**H. Bryce (Depute)**

The Eco group are planning on working towards the Silver Award this year and are making plans for this session. We will be inviting pupils to join staff in organising activities and would be keen to hear from any parents who would be interested and able to support the group. Please contact the School Office.

20. Advanced Higher Enhancement Experiments**Sarah-Jayne McGinley (S6)**

On Friday 7 September, the Advanced Higher Chemistry class visited the Aberdeen University Meston Building. Mr Donaldson accompanied the seven students as they took part in some experiments using the first year labs. It was a very beneficial experience for all the students involved as they got a feel for the layout of the labs and practise in using new equipment.

Then on Monday 11 September the two Advanced Higher Biology students attended the open day at the Zoology building with Miss Stephen. They took part in experiments in the biology lab and attended two talks in the lecture theatre. The students were also allowed to have a look around the Zoology Museum and the Botanical Garden. The day was a really valuable experience to the students as they were given an insight into the type of experiments they would encounter as first year university students.

21. Cashless Catering - On-line Payment**Audrey Campbell, CSN**

This type of facility is currently being developed and will be available via the Aberdeenshire Council website. We will update parents as soon as we receive further information. If you require any further information on Cashless Catering please follow the attached link:

http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/school_meals/CashlessCateringInSecondarySchools.asp

22. School Health**Kelly Jarvis (School Nurse)**

Information for Parents/Carers:

- If pupils require to take medication during the school day, the medication must be their own, provided from home and a consent form completed. Consent forms are available from Mrs Robertson, Nursing Assistant.
- If your child suffers from asthma, please remind them to carry their inhaler at school.
- To prevent spread of infection, pupils should remain absent from school for 48 hours AFTER symptoms of vomiting or diarrhoea have settled. Good hand hygiene is promoted at school.
- S1 Health- I will shortly be offering all S1 pupils an individual introductory appointment and distance and colour vision screening. S1 pupils will also receive a Tuberculosis risk assessment form for completion by parents/carers.

S2 Health- This school year, pupils will receive an appointment for distance and colour vision screening.

S2 Girls have had their 1st HPV Immunisation. 2nd HPV session is on Thursday 11th October and 3rd session will be on Thursday 28th February 2013. There will be catch up sessions for any that miss these sessions.

S3 Health- In line with the UK Vaccination Programme, pupils will be offered their Teenage Booster for Diphtheria, Tetanus and Polio on Tuesday 5th February 2013. Any S3 pupils, who have not received vaccination against Mumps Measles and Rubella pre-school, will be offered vaccination in March 2013. Consent forms will be issued prior to these sessions.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me on 01771 622994.

23. Positive Behaviour Management Policy and Procedures

This term, we have introduced a revised Behaviour Management Policy. The policy has been devised by a working group which was set up to review approaches to behaviour management and to come up with procedures which reflected current thinking and best practice in behaviour management.

The policy which has been produced puts an emphasis on encouraging and acknowledging good behaviour, while working with pupils whose behaviour does not meet expectations. Teachers will try to build positive relationships with pupils and will try to teach in appropriate behaviour. This strategy will replace the issuing of levels (lines).

Behaviour Expectations

Expectations of behaviour have been set out, using the word Merit as a hook:

- Meet deadlines, be prepared and be on time
- Ensure that you always do your best
- Respect other people, their work and property
- Instructions should be followed first time
- Treat yours and others' safety seriously

Responding to Poor Behaviour

Where a pupil's behaviour consistently fails to meet some or all of these expectations, the teacher will try a range of strategies within the class to try to help, but if these strategies do not work, may decide to monitor the behaviour for a time, using a Merit Support Card. The Merit Support Card will highlight what goes well and/or what is causing concern. Parents will have the opportunity to track their child's progress either by seeing the card after each lesson, or through comments noted in the Diary/Planner.

Experience tells us that most pupils will change their behaviour when it is monitored closely and discussed frequently with them by teachers and their parents. If a pupil's behaviour improves, the slate will be wiped clean.

If behaviour does not improve, the pupil may be removed from class into a time-out area for a short time, and may be referred to the year head who will, if necessary, seek further support for the child or use more punitive sanctions.

Acknowledging Positive Behaviour

While we will be trying to tackle poor behaviour, we also plan to acknowledge those pupils who consistently meet expectations. Every week, pupils will be awarded points by teachers for different reasons. One expectation will be highlighted each week:

Expectation	Points Criteria
Meet deadlines, be prepared and be on time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting deadlines consistently • Being on time consistently • Bring diary/planner to school daily
Ensure that you always do your best	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring appropriate materials/ equipment/kit to class • Make consistently good effort in class
Respect other people, their work and their property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be consistently polite and respectful • Wear dress code consistently
Instructions should be followed first time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistently good behaviour in class • Listen carefully and act on instructions first time
Take safety - yours and others' - seriously	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behave in a way which ensure everyone's safety

Alongside this, teachers will, from time to time, nominate pupils for a Positive Referral. Positive Referrals are given for exemplary behaviour, and are given for one of the following reasons:

- Being a good ambassador for the school
- Going the extra mile
- Being a good citizen

How can be parents be involved?

We are encouraging teachers to use pupil Diary/Planners to record concerns: this may involve a note about work not being done, or about behaviour which does not meet expectations, or an acknowledgement of positive behaviour and effort. **We would encourage you to check your child's Diary/Planner regularly, not only to monitor homework, but also to check for comments of this kind.**

24. Dress Code**Admin**

Pupils are expected to wear school dress while at school and when participating in organised school trips or activities.

The school dress for Mintlaw Academy is based on black and white only. It should be noted that navy blue and grey are not acceptable dress colours.

Trousers/skirt - Black (*Plain, with no decoration, e.g. stripes, patterns*).

Tops - Black or white only (*Tops must be plain, not patterned or striped. Logos must be no larger than a CD box. The school promotes the wearing of its own range of tops with the school logo.*)

Outer jacket - Any colour (*must be removed in class*).

How to order school dress items: Order forms for school tops are available from the School Office or items can be purchased directly from Donalds of Peterhead. School ties can be bought at the School Office for £4.50.

25. PTA Mega Draw Winners

	Sept
Prize £70	H. MacDonald
Prize £35	A. Baxter
Prize £20	C. McHugh
Prize £10	J. Elphinstone
Prize £10	J. Whyte

**26. Staff Farewell****Rod Parr**

Earlier this term, Rod Parr, one of our long-serving Technical Assistants retired. Rod was a stalwart of the Technical Department and could be found cutting wood for pupils' Technical projects, or maintaining the equipment so vital to the smooth running of the department. Rod has now moved to Spain, where he will undoubtedly enjoy his new life in the sun.

Linda Smith

Moving on to pastures new is Linda Smith, until recently our Canteen Supervisor. Linda was in post for a relatively short time, but despite that, she made her mark, being responsible for introducing a new range of muffins and cakes, hot drinks, and ice lollies, while ensuring pupils and staff still had a range of healthy options to choose from every day. Linda has now moved to a similar post at Keith Grammar School, a school nearer to her home, with all our best wishes.

Robert Stephen

On the last day of term, our janitor, Robert, leaves his full time post at Mintlaw Academy to begin a part-time post at Stuartfield Primary. Robert has been with us since 2006 and has been a much loved member of the school's support services team. As well as fulfilling the usual janitorial duties, Robert has participated in whole school activities, adding an extra touch of fun to events. Well known around the school, Robert has been a great support to S1 pupils as they settled in to Academy life, a wise ear for senior pupils planning fun activities and an advisor to pupils whose interests in school are more practical than academic. There is no doubt that he will be greatly missed, but we look forward to seeing him in and around school on Thursday mornings, when he will do a short period of duty at the Academy. He leaves his post with the very best wishes of all pupils and staff.

Angela Mason

With the review of Administrative Support which has taken place within Aberdeenshire Council, we are now seeing changes to our office team. Angela Mason, a clerical assistant with us since 2004, is moving to Stuartfield Primary after the October break. Angela takes with her our thanks for all her hard work in school, along with our best wishes in her new post.

27. Lunchtime and After School Activities

Pupils are encouraged to participate in some of the wide variety of clubs and sports available at Mintlaw Academy. This list does change through the year but the following have begun or will begin soon.

MINTLAW ACADEMY 2012/13
LUNCHTIME & AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES & OPPORTUNITIES

MUSICAL OPPORTUNITIES

String Group Music Making Club-S1	Monday Monday	1.00 – 1.25 12.50 – 1.25	Music Department Music Department	Mr Milne Mrs Whyte/ Seniors
Percussion group	Wednesday	tba	Music Department	Mrs John
Concert Band	Thursday	12.50 – 1.25	Music Department	Mrs Whyte/Mr Boyd
Choir	Tuesday	1.00 – 1.25	Music Department	Mrs Whyte
Guitar Club	Friday	1.00 – 1.25	Music Department	Mr Holroyd
Brass	tba		Music Department	Mr Boyd

SPORTING OPPORTUNITIES

Badminton Club	S1 – 6	Thursday	3.30 – 4.30	Mrs Fowlie
Football	U - 13s	Monday	12.25 – 1.00	Mr Robertson
	U-14 s reserves	Monday	12.25 – 1.00	Mr Mair
	U - 14s	Tuesday	12.25 – 1.00	Mr Mair
	U – 15s	Thursday	12.25 – 1.00	Mr Mair
	Senior Boys	Friday	12.25-1.00	Mr Robertson
	Junior Girls	Tuesday Thursday	12.25 - 1.00	Mr Robertson
	Senior Girls S4-6	Tuesday	12.25 - 1.00	Mr Carnie/ Mr Mair
	Girls' Goalkeeping	Wednesday	12.25 – 1.00	Mr Robertson
League, Cup and Friendly matches take place after school midweek and on Saturday mornings. At times games will be played during school hours. Pupils should know a few days in advance of fixture dates.				
Golf	S1 - 6	April-June tba	12.25 - 1.00	Miss Coleman
Girls' Hockey	S1 – 3 S4 – 6	Wednesday Monday	12.25 – 1.00 12.25 – 1.00	Miss Coleman/ Miss Gordon
Gymnastics	S1- 2	Wednesday	12.25 – 1.00	Mr Carnie/ pupils
Running - Cross-Country	S1 – 6	Tuesday	12.25 - 1.00	Miss Coleman/ Miss Gordon
Table Tennis	S1-6	Thursday (Oct-April)	3.30 -4.30	Mrs Walker

SPECIALIST CLUBS

Art Club	S1/2	Friday	12.25 – 1.25 in Art Dept.	Miss Barclay
Biology Cell	S3-6	Wednesday drop-in	12.40 – 1.20 in S10	Mr Milne/ Miss Smith/ Miss Stephen
Book Buddies	S1-4	Friday	1.00 – 1.25 in library	Mrs Richards/Mrs Skinner
Book Club	S1-3	Tuesday	1.00 – 1.30 in library	Mrs Shaw
Book Talk	S4-6	Thursday (first of month)	1.00 – 1.30 in library	Mrs Skinner
Chemistry Solutions	S3-6	Tuesday drop-in	12.40 -1.20 in S8	Mr Donaldson/ Mrs King/ Mrs Simpson
Choral Speaking	S1-2	Wednesday	1.00 – 1.30 pm Drama 1	Mrs Beattie
Debating Club	S1-3	Friday	12.30 – 1.00 in F5	Miss Devlin
Duke of Edinburgh	S3- 4	tba	12.45 – 1.25	Mr Kilpatrick
Games Club	S1-6	Tuesday & Thursday	12.50 – 1.25 in F5	Miss Devlin/ Mr Sneddon
Photography Club	S1-6	Thursday	12.30 – 1.25 in F3	Mr McLennan/ Mrs Reid
Physics Café	S3 – 6	Monday drop-in	12.40 – 1.20 in S9	Mrs Gore/ Mr McIntosh
Rags to Riches	S1-6 & Staff	Wednesday	12.25 – 1.25 in S3	Mrs Bailey/Mrs Crowder/ Mrs McGillvray/Mrs Smith
Scripture Union	S1-6	Friday	12.40 1.20 in F8	Miss Devlin/Mrs Findlay/ Mr Sneddon
Sew it Seams Knitting & Crochet	S1-6 & Staff	Monday	12.25 – 1.25 in E5	Miss Anderson/ Miss Pert
Sliced up Shakespeare	S3 - 6	Thurs (from Oct)	1.00 – 1.30 in Drama 1	Mrs Beattie
S1/2 Pantomime	S1-2	Tues (from Oct)	12.50 - 1.30 in Drama 1	Mrs Corney
Social Dancing	S1 - 6	tba (from Oct)	12.30 - 1.00	Mrs Slaven
(For enjoyment and confidence in dancing including Scottish, ballroom and modern dancing. Held in the Small Gym until the Burns Supper.)				
Burns Supper	A Burns Supper for senior students and staff is being planned for 9th February. Scottish dancing is one of the entertainments.			Mrs Duncan/ Mrs Bain
Quartet	S1-6	School newspaper is produced 4 times a year. Mon lunch & other times as required in F14	12.30 - 1.00	Mrs Donald
Warhammer Club	S1-6	Tuesday & Thursday in B12	12.25 - 1.25	Mrs Snape
Young Engineers	S1-2	Tuesday in G6/F4	12.40 -1.20	Mrs Gore/ Mr Hynd
Charities Committee	S5-6	Monday	1.00 - 1.30	Mr Sneddon
School Radio	S4-6	See bulletin – production for Fridays		Mrs Sharp
Senior Yearbook Committee	S5-6	Lunchtime by arrangement		Mrs Bryce
Publicity Committee	S5-6	Lunchtime by arrangement		Mrs Bryce

Peer Listening Project run by S5/6 Students for all pupils 1.00 – 1.30 pm
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday
Social Subjects Base in the Extension

SCHOOL LIBRARY The Library is open to all pupils 1.00 – 1.30 daily.

Pupils can use the Library PCs at the times listed below:

The Library is open after school for all pupils
From 3.30 – 4.00 pm

Monday	1.00 – 1.30	S1 & S2
Tuesday	1.00 – 1.30	S3 & S4
Wednesday	1.00 – 1.30	S4 & S5
Thursday	1.00 – 1.30	S1 & S2
Friday	1.00 – 1.30	S3 & S5

The Library is open for students after school for all pupils from 3.30 – 4.00 pm



lunchtime activities 12.25 - 1.00 pm
unless stated S1 - S6

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	Check Bulletin
Homework Club Library S1/2 <i>(1.00- 1.25)</i> S4-6 Girls Hockey Goalkeeping U13 Football U14 reserves Charities Committee <i>(1.00 - 1.30)</i> String Group <i>(1.00 - 1.25)</i> S1 Music Making Club <i>(12.50 - 1.25)</i> Sew it Seams Knitting & Crochet <i>(12.25 - 1.25)</i> Physics Café S3-6 drop in <i>(12.40 -1.20)</i>	Homework Club Library-S3/4 <i>(1.00 - 1.25)</i> U14 Football Junior Girls' Football Senior Girls' Football Running/Cross-Country Chemistry Solutions S3-6 drop in <i>(12.40 - 1.20)</i> S1 Music Making Club <i>(12.50 - 1.25)</i> Choir <i>(1.00 - 1.30)</i> Warhammer Club <i>(12.25 - 1.25)</i> Games Club <i>(12.50 - 1.25)</i> Young Engineers <i>(12.40 -1.25)</i> S1-3 Book Club <i>(1.00-1.30)</i> S1-2 Pantomime <i>(12.50 - 1.30)</i>	Homework Club Library S4/5 <i>(1.00 - 1.25)</i> Girls' Goalkeeping S1/2 Gymnastics S1-3 Girls' Hockey Biology Cell S3-6 - drop in <i>(12.40 - 1.20)</i> Percussion Group <i>(tba)</i> Rags to Riches <i>(12.30 - 1.25)</i> S1/2 Choral Speaking <i>(1.00-1.30)</i>	Homework Club Library S1/2 <i>(1.00-1.30)</i> U15 Football Junior Girls' Football S4-6 Book Talk <i>(12.55 -1.25) monthly</i> Concert Band <i>(12.50 - 1.25)</i> Photography Club S1-6 <i>(12.30 - 1.25)</i> Sliced up Shakespeare S3-6 (1.00-1.30) Games Club <i>(12.50 - 1.25)</i> Warhammer Club <i>(12.25 - 1.25)</i>	Homework Club Library S3/4 <i>(1.00- 1.25)</i> Senior Boys' Football Book Buddies <i>(1.00- 1.25)</i> Scripture Union <i>(12.40 - 1.25)</i> Guitar Club <i>(1.00 - 1.25)</i> S1-2 Art Club <i>(12.25 -1.25)</i> S1-3 Debating Club	By arrangement: S1 - 6 Golf <i>(April - June)</i> Social Dancing <i>(Oct - Jan)</i> Brass Group <i>tba</i> S4-Book Talk <i>(1st Thursday of month)</i> 12.55 - 1.25 S4-6 MARS Radio Quartet <i>(12.30 - 1.00)</i> Duke of Edinburgh S3/4 Publicity Committee 'MA Matters' Yearbook Committee
Peer Listening <i>(1.00 - 1.25)</i>	Peer Listening <i>(1.00 - 1.25)</i>	Peer Listening <i>(1.00 - 1.25)</i>	Peer Listening <i>(1.00 - 1.25)</i>	Peer Listening <i>(1.00 - 1.25)</i>	
After School			Badminton S1-6 Table Tennis <i>(3.30 - 4.30)</i>		

28. Parent Council 2012/13

A list of Parent Council members will be posted on the school website. If you have any queries about the Parent Council, please contact either Elizabeth Preston, Chairperson or Briony Mair, Secretary, via the following e-mail address: maparentcouncil@gmail.com

We welcome as office bearers Anna Gillanders as Vice Chair. Over half of this years parents are new members of the council and we look forward to the enthusiasm that this is sure to bring as well as the new head teacher, Alan Horberry, joining us. We hope that the issues discussed and opinions offered reflect those of the forum that we represent, and that we can be a valuable link between parents and the school and vice versa and increase our links with the wider community. If anyone has an area that they feel they would like us to look at then please contact us and we can add it to the agenda for our next meeting.

29. Date for your Diary

A reminder that Mintlaw Academy will also be closed on **Monday, 29th October** due to additional Staff In-service day.

2012/2013

Term 1	End of term 1	Friday, 12 October 2012
Term 2	Staff In-service	Monday, 29 October 2012
	Start of term 2	Tuesday, 30 October 2012
	Staff In-service	Monday, 12 November 2012
	Staff In-service	Tuesday, 13 November 2012
	End of term 2	Friday, 21 December 2012
Term 3	Start of term 3	Monday, 7 January 2013
	Occasional day 1	Friday, 8 February 2013
	Mid-term holiday	Monday, 11 February 2013
	Staff In-service	Tuesday, 12 February 2013
	Staff In-service	Wednesday, 13 February 2013
	End of term 3	Friday, 28 March 2013
Term 4	Start of term 4	Monday, 15 April 2013
	May Day holiday	Monday, 6 May 2013
	Occasional Day 2	Monday, 10 June 2013
	End of term 4	Friday, 5 July 2013

Link:

http://aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/information/term_dates.asp